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WHAT CONSTITUTES AN ACCOMPLISHED  
LADY. There is perhaps no term which has  
become more perverted from its original mean-  
ing than the word *accomplishments*. It signi-  
fies completion, perfection, and implies finish  
of character to which nothing can be desired.  
Now it is morally certain that she could neither  
dance, (that is, by system) nor play, nor draw,  
nor converse, in any other language than her  
own. Where then were her accomplishments?  
True she is, in her state of innocence, one of  
the most beautiful models of grace, propriety,  
dignity, and humility ever exhibited; and there-  
fore we must suppose that the author of Para-  
dise Lost had in view a far different standard of  
female excellence than the fashionable ones of  
our own times. What then constitutes an ac-  
complished female? We answer, 'A fitness  
for the sphere she is to occupy, whatever it may  
be, and a faithful and conscientious discharge  
of the duties belonging to that sphere.' She  
may not be a wife and mother.

For those fashionable acquisitions which have any  
occasion for those fashionable acquisitions which  
in some situations of life are both useful and  
ornamental, but she may and will have far  
higher opportunities for blessing and being blessed.  
She may be the suitable companion of a  
sensible man, the judicious mother of a rising  
family; the neat, orderly, and frugal mis-  
tress of an extensive household. She may be  
qualified to counsel her husband in his trouble;  
lighten his heart of half its load, and render his  
home the spot of all others most delightful.  
She may train up her children in the paths of  
piety; to form habits of virtue; and thus be-  
come a blessing to society when she has gone  
to her rest in heaven. If this is a low station,  
and fitness for it nothing but vulgar qualifications,  
where on earth shall we find one that is high or  
useful? We would not be understood to set  
on value on what are usually called accom-  
plishments. Many of them are elegant, and in  
certain stations in life, and where there is a de-  
cided taste for them, may be highly useful.  
But we do deprecate the 'phrenzy' of accom-  
plishments which rages among all classes, and  
induces them to sacrifice time and money, which  
they ought to lay out, might have made them or-  
nament to society, in pursuits worse than use-  
less. The young lady who can spend but six  
months perhaps at a boarding school, must, in  
conformity to custom, throw away two thirds of  
that precious time in forcing a taste for music,  
or dancing, or learning French, when it is un-  
derstood that at a marriage these hard earned  
acquisitions are to be laid aside never to be re-  
sumed. There is something wrong here, and  
it will never be remedied, until parents have  
good sense and independence enough to adapt  
the means in the education of their daughters  
to the end in view. If they desire them to be  
any thing more than mere puppets trained for  
display, whose only aim is to dress and be ad-  
mired, they must teach them both by precept  
and example, that what is useful is minutely  
to be preferred to what is dazzling; and that  
virtuous excellence is to be more ardently cov-  
eted than fashionable accomplishments. If Sol-  
omon's beautiful description of a virtuous wo-  
man were to be adopted as the model of female  
excellence, what a change would be at once  
produced in the moral aspect of the world!  
Some of the most powerful temptations to sin  
would lose their alluring charms, and modesty,  
industry, and chastity, be once more what they  
should always have been, the safe-guards and  
the highest ornaments of woman.—[N. Y.  
Advocate.]

**South Sea Islands.**—The Rev. J. Williams,  
a missionary on those islands gives the follow-  
ing amusing picture of the surprise of one of the  
Islanders on first witnessing the effect of writ-  
ing.

"In the erection of his chapel," (at Rara-  
otonga,) "a circumstance occurred which will  
give a striking idea of the feeling of an untaught  
people, when observing for the first time the ef-  
fects of written communications. As I had  
come to work one morning without my square,  
I took up a chip, and with a piece of charcoal,  
I wrote upon it a request that Mrs. Williams  
would send me that article. I called a chief,  
who was superintending his portion of the work,  
and said to him, 'Friend, take this; go to our  
house, and give it to Mrs. Williams.' He was  
a singular looking man, remarkably quick in his  
movements, and had been a great warrior; but,  
in one of the numerous battles he had fought,  
had lost an eye and giving me an inexpressible  
look with the other, he said, 'Take that; she  
will call me a fool, so I will not take it.' Per-  
ceiving me to be in earnest he took it, and ask-  
ed, 'What must I say?' I replied, 'You have  
nothing to say; the chip will say all I wish.'"

With a look of astonishment and contempt, he  
held up that piece of wood, and said, 'How can  
this speak? Has this a mouth? I desired him  
to take it immediately, and not spend so much  
time in talking about it. On arriving at the  
house, he gave the chip to Mrs. Williams, who  
read it, threw it away, and went to the tool  
chest; whither the chief, resolving to see the  
result of this mysterious proceeding, followed  
her closely. On receiving the square from  
her, he said, 'Stay, daughter, how do you know  
that this is what Mr. Williams wants? Why,'  
now? 'Yes,' said the astonished warrior, 'but I  
did not hear it say any thing.' 'If you did not,  
I did,' was the reply; 'for it made known to  
me what he wanted, and all you have to do is  
to return with it as quickly as possible.' With  
this the chief leaped out of the house, and catch-  
ing up the mysterious piece of wood, he ran  
through the settlement with the chip in one hand,  
and the square in the other, holding them up as  
high as his arms would reach, and shouting as  
he went, 'See the wisdom of these English peo-  
ple; they can make chips talk, they can make  
chips talk!' On giving me the square, he  
wished to know how it was possible thus to con-  
verse with persons at a distance. I gave him  
all the information in my power; but it was a  
circumstance involved in so much mystery, that  
he actually tied a string to the chip, hung it  
round his neck, and wore it for some time.  
During several following days, we frequently  
saw him surrounded by a crowd, who were lis-

tening with intense interest, while he narrated  
the wonders which this chip had performed."

[FOR THE OXFORD DEMOCRAT.]

**THE ELM SHADED COTTAGE.**  
Now my faithful Bayard summon all your  
native courage and look well to the safety of  
your master, said an athletic and well dressed  
young man, gently tapping the lofty bending  
neck of his beautiful steed, as he paused for a  
moment on the bank of one of those rapid  
streams that issue from the steep and variegated  
sides of the green mountains and bear the wa-  
ters of their verdant glades to swell the bosom of  
the beautiful Connecticut.

Although the day was enchantingly fine and  
all above and around was smiling in the bright  
serenity of nature; the fluctuating rivulet,  
swelled by an early September rain, was rolling  
its furious waves with an impetuous grandeur  
that singularly contrasted with the otherwise  
unbroken stillness of the secluded spot. Only  
the slender railing of the granite fastened bridge  
was seen above the swift gliding waters, but our  
resolute traveller after heeding with a careful  
eye the dangers of the place, urged forward his  
obedient steed, and in a moment found himself  
borne in safety to the opposite shore.

At this instant a neat open carriage drawn by  
a span of elegant horses in which was seated a  
young gentleman and lady came rapidly along  
the winding road; and after an interchange of  
civilities, with some consultation upon the  
expediency of proceeding, notwithstanding the  
many fears of the lady, it was determined to at-  
tempt the crossing of the flooded bridge.

With some difficulty the horses were com-  
pelled to enter the rapid stream—they entered—  
but as they reached the middle, symptoms of  
affright were evinced, and the gentleman be-  
coming giddy from the situation to which he  
was unaccustomed, and injudiciously drawing  
the tightened rein they reeled from the proper  
course, the railing yielded to their pressure,  
and all were precipitated into the deep water  
below.

Our equestrian who sat anxiously watching  
their movements now quickly urged his coura-  
geous animal to the spot where the disaster had  
occurred, and springing from his back, with the  
utmost difficulty and danger succeeded in grasp-  
ing the struggling hand of the despairing lady;  
with a stifled shriek she was fast disappearing  
beneath the foaming wave, where to sink  
must have been fatal; and with a power only  
adequate to the arduous duty buffeted the pres-  
sure of the billows till at last he restored his deli-  
cate treasure to the arms of her gratified brother,  
who clinging to a corner of the carriage had  
already gained the grassy shore. The lady  
had admirably preserved her presence of mind,  
having been calm and composed even in the  
presence of such imminent danger; and though  
almost exhausted, in connection with her brother  
he immediately loaded the generous stranger  
with rational expressions of gratitude which am-  
ply repaid him for every energy he had exerted.

Deeming his assistance still needful, and anx-  
ious to see his new friends as well as himself in  
a place where proper attentions might be recel-  
ved; after adjusting as well as possible the  
slightly broken harness he became their attend-  
ant to the nearest public house, and when re-  
stored by ample entertainment to a usual share  
of warmth and comfort, having taken an affec-  
tionate leave of the grateful gentleman and as  
he fancied his eminently beautiful and interest-  
ing sister in a few hours he had again passed  
the eventful bridge, and was leisurely pursuing  
his journey, his active steed keeping step with  
the silent music of his masters reflections.

A further description of our present hero is  
perhaps here unnecessary. Some notion of his  
person has already been conveyed, and as to  
the character of his nobler qualities, the reader

may better judge from traits displayed in the  
scene with which he is acquainted. Suffice it  
then to say, that he was on a tour from the nor-  
thern part of New York, the place of his resi-  
dence and business, for the double purpose of  
enjoying the beauties of nature, and visiting his  
friends and the home of his nativity, at a small  
village in the eastern part of Maine. Though  
an active business man, an intellect naturally  
powerful, strengthened by the influence of a re-  
spectable education with extensive and well se-  
lected reading, had rendered him a correct  
thinker and devoted upon lover of nature; he  
had chosen this mode of travelling, as it afford-  
ed him favorite facilities for going when and  
where he pleased, and with the presence of his  
faithful animal his port-manteau among other  
things furnished with apparatus for landscape  
drawing, a mind like his could not be solitary  
among the ripened pleasures of sober Sep-  
tember.

A minute description of his daily adventures,  
though the scenes in which he mingled were  
fraught with lively interest to himself, might be  
tedious to the reader, we will therefore make  
the narrative of a two weeks stroll on and among  
the green mountains, and along the rich valleys  
of the Connecticut and Saco, the work of a mo-  
ment, and halt with our traveller now in the  
western part of Maine, while his steed is re-  
freshing himself with the beverage of a pure  
spring at the base of a high wooded hill, over  
which he is to pass.

Our traveller had taken an early leave of the  
hospitable house which formed one of the most  
conspicuous ornaments of the neat quiet village  
where he had spent the preceding night, the  
little village which now gave a splendid appear-  
ance to the level valley in which it was located,  
as the rising sun threw his golden beams upon  
the numerous windows, and as he ascended the  
forest hill he amused himself now by gazing on  
the morning gems as they hung glittering from  
the forest leaves, and now musing on the little  
histories which he had gathered from the inhabi-  
tants of the pleasant village, till arriving at the  
summit and emerging from the wood, a prospect  
opened to his view so unexpected and inter-  
esting, that he halted and with a painters eye  
he followed the outlines of the distant landscape.  
Across a gently sloping valley of a few miles in  
width presenting the most agreeable variety of  
cultivated fields, woodland and meadows, with  
a small stream winding along like a silver thread,  
only hidden here and there by a cluster of flow-  
ing elms that flourished upon its banks, the view  
was impeded on the east by a shrub spotted  
mountain which rose abruptly on the north from  
a forest bed and gradually descended to the  
south with all the pleasing irregularity of nature  
till lost in the bosom of a glassy lake.

The mountain was skirted by an almost un-  
broken belt of lofty trees, affording both shelter  
and shade to the extensive pasture that here and  
there extended its sloping green half way to  
the top, and in front the eye rested with plea-  
sure upon a neat small house of snowy white,  
half hidden by two lofty elms that threw their  
slender branches in graceful curves over the  
humble tenement. A little to the north a large  
barn with several out-houses and a back-ground  
of extensive orchard bespoke this the residence  
of a farmer. Our traveller having feasted his  
vision with the pleasant view, quickly dismount-  
ed, took the bit from the mouth of his horse  
(which choosing rather to feast his palate than  
his eyes, commenced grazing by the road side)  
and taking his portfolio seated himself by a large  
rock, and commenced sketching the landscape  
with which he was so much interested.

He soon became absorbed in this favorite  
amusement, time glided away unheeded, and  
when he rose from his task, having completed  
an entire drawing of the mountain with its scen-  
ery, his horse was standing by his side, as if  
waiting his attention, and the sun was fast sink-  
ing to the western horizon. The day being so  
far advanced, our traveller resolved to spend  
the night at the distant farm-house, should its  
inmates not lessen his interest in the place.  
Riding briskly over the intervening valley he  
was soon ascending the gently rising avenue  
which led to the secluded mansion. As he  
approached the spot, he could but admire the  
singular beauty of the situation, and the perfect  
neatness and taste which pervaded the whole.  
The orchard was loaded with ripened fruit, and  
on a high branch of the large elm, a robin sat  
chanting its sunset song as if to welcome his ap-  
proach.

Suffice it to say, he was most cordially re-  
ceived by the family within, consisting only of  
an elderly gentleman and lady, with some few  
domestics, and when amply refreshed by an ex-  
cellent supper, his kind host who had already  
formed a quite considerable acquaintance, con-  
ducted him into a well furnished library where  
they were to spend the evening.

You are a painter then, said the old man as  
his delighted guest presented to him the latest  
offspring of his pencil, such accuracy and neat-  
ness bespoke the labors of a practiced hand.—  
(I sometimes use the pencil for amusement, an-  
swered the youth, feeling somewhat flattered  
that his production was approved by one whom  
he could but consider a person of no ordinary  
discernment. And can you be amused with  
those pictures which present themselves to the  
mental eye through the medium of hearing,

continued the old man. If so, I will tell you a  
short story.

The young man cheerfully signified his plea-  
sure at being thus entertained, when his smiling  
host, seating himself in his arm chair, com-  
menced his promised narrative.

I do not intend, said he, to weary your pa-  
tience with a lengthy recital of the common de-  
privations and hardships of the early settlers,  
though the scene and period of my tale is con-  
nected with the early settlement of this part of  
the country, and notwithstanding the apathy  
with which those times are regarded by those  
whose only proof of good sense is in the self-  
consciousness that they are wiser than their fa-  
thers, amid the almost unbroken forest which  
covered our now verdant hills, existed some  
hearts so replete with warm feeling and un-  
doubted resolution, that among the members of  
the present generation, we might search in vain  
for a superior.

Mr. Norton was the eldest son of a wealthy  
farmer in Massachusetts, and having chosen to  
follow the occupation to which he was bred, at  
the time in which we will introduce him to your  
notice, by the assistance of his father, had been  
for several years comfortably settled at a beau-  
tiful location in the Province of Maine. He  
was now of middle age, in independent circum-  
stances, and his family consisted of a wife, ac-  
customed in her youth to more society than her  
present situation allowed; a son and daughter  
just exchanging the buds of childhood for the  
opening blossoms of youth, and an orphan boy

who had long repaid the kindness of his master  
by his faithful labor. George Lyndon, the or-  
phan just mentioned, was the son of a poor  
mechanic, who having been bereaved of a pru-  
dent wife, was unable to keep his numerous  
family together; and Mr. Norton being at this  
time about to remove to Maine, kindly offered  
to furnish George a home at his contemplated  
residence, where he deemed his services might  
not be unacceptable; nor was he mistaken in  
this anticipation, though his motive was that of  
generosity rather than personal advantage, for  
his new situation was one which required much  
labor, and having designed to give his son a li-  
beral education, being consequently for much of  
the time deprived of his assistance, he found in  
George, blessed with a strong constitution, faith-  
ful as a son and always ready in every emer-  
gency, a valuable acquisition to his happy house-  
hold. Mr. Norton was a friend to letters—  
his house was furnished with much valuable  
reading, and as George evinced an early love  
for books, he gave him in his earlier years equal  
opportunities with his son; and till the com-  
mencement of those studies immediately prepar-  
atory for College, he had shown himself fully  
his equal in point of information.

When William Norton first left his fathers  
house to pursue his classics at a distant Acad-  
emy, George shed many tears of bitter regret  
that his could not be so happy a destiny, but  
with a fortitude peculiar to his character, he  
submitted to necessity, and truly grateful that it  
was no worse, only determined to perform his  
duty and improve every opportunity with which  
he might be favored. But though deprived of  
the society of William, and unable to pursue the  
course to which his inclinations urged him, one  
companion was still left in whose presence he  
could not be discontented.

Julia Norton was a beautiful girl, the very  
picture of health and innocence; and though in  
many respects a superior, she was to George a  
companion whose demeanor towards him had  
never yet been such as would do discredit to a  
sister; she had been with him a careless partici-  
pator of the sports, and many of the little duties  
of childhood, he would even forego his own care  
to render her any trifling service without even  
reflecting what prompted him to make the sac-  
rifice, while she, with equal innocence, delight-  
ed in his attentions, and repaid them with the  
sunniest smiles of approbation.

Thus the several members of the Norton  
family, though denied of many advantages,  
lived in perfect tranquility at their secluded  
home.

During the absence of William, the connec-  
tion between George and Julia grew into a closer  
intimacy, and when in each others society,  
they felt a pleasure which neither could wish to  
be enhanced. Time at length wrought a gradu-  
al change in their character and feelings; the  
thoughtless pleasures of childhood were ex-  
changed for the more rational ones of youth, and  
their fondness for each other began to be mu-  
tually understood and realized. But I told you  
my story should be short, so I will hasten on to  
more prominent events, leaving the interim to be  
filled out by your own imagination.

On a calm bright evening in the latter part  
of May, the youthful lovers, (for such we may  
now style them) were sitting hand in hand with-  
in the tastefully ornamented yard, which decorat-  
ed the front of their happy tenement. It was  
Julia's birth day, and George, at her request,  
after completing his usual task, had transplanted  
two pretty elms from the adjacent forest to the  
opposite corner of the little enclosure, through  
one of which the full moon was looking down  
as if to witness the ardour and purity of their  
feelings. There was something of that sorrow  
which one would hardly exchange for the  
liveliest pleasure, resting upon the countenance  
of George, and Julia's sweet face seemed now

to catch the shadow and now lit up to a brillian-  
cy quite unusual.

And so you are going to accept the invitation  
of your Aunt, and leave us on the morrow to  
commence a new year among new scenes—new  
friends, and new enjoyments? said George en-  
quiringly.

Yes George, answered Julia, scarcely know-  
ing whether she felt sorrowful or elated at the  
prospect. My dear parents think it best, and  
though a separation from friends & home is truly  
painful, I think the pleasure of seeing the world  
and again returning to those friends, may afford  
ample compensation.

And when introduced into the shining circles  
of fashion, surrounded as you will be by many  
flattering admirers, will you forget to treasure  
in your heart the affectionate remembrance of  
your rustic?

I know not, answered Julia with much feel-  
ing, how welcome may be the pleasures of my  
new residence, but this I am conscious, let these  
pleasures be many or trivial, they can only have  
the effect to heighten my esteem for the few  
friends who now share my warmest affection.

Thus they prolonged their interview until a  
late hour, and after having in perfect unison of  
feeling, expressed the most solemn vows of  
faithful remembrance, taking an affectionate  
farewell, they repaired to their peaceful slum-  
bers.

Julia had now commenced her sixteenth year  
and though unacquainted with many of the  
shining accomplishments of polished life, no sor-  
row or disappointment had mared the buoyancy  
of her spirit, happy herself and wishing to ren-  
der all others so, she was the mistress of natural  
politeness; in short, her's were all those charms  
which render this period in womans existence  
truly enchanting.

All things necessary for her departure having  
been arranged, early on the following morning,  
with a heart beating with joyful anticipations,  
she started with her father on the contemplated  
journey to Boston, but in spite of all her expecta-  
tions, and in spite of all the fortitude which  
she had summoned for the occasion, the tears  
moistened her healthful cheek as she received  
the farewell blessing of her excellent mother and  
the last anxious look of George. But still being  
under the protection of her kind father, the  
sight of new objects soon dissipated the parting  
tears, and this journey of one hundred and fifty  
miles to the famed metropolis of New England  
seemed the commencement of a new and  
lighful era in her existence.

When arrived at Boston, Julia was received  
with the warmest demonstrations of pleasure by  
uncle, aunt, and cousins; and on the very first  
evening had an interview with her affectionate  
brother William, who at this time was a student  
at Cambridge.

Julia's uncle was a rich merchant, and  
though the increase of wealth, instead of satisfy-  
ing, had only increased the demands of his na-  
tive avarice. He lived in a splendid house in  
one of the most fashionable streets of the city.  
His wife, though emphatically prudent in little  
affairs, was a fashionable lady; and her two  
daughters, the indulged objects of a fashionable  
education.

This new situation was to Julia the realizing  
of a thousand enchanting stories and waking  
dreams of her childhood. William Norton,  
possessed of the most genuine affection, and  
donating upon the uncommon amiableness and  
beauty of his only sister, often attended her to  
the various places of fashionable resort, her  
aunt indulged her with frequent opportunities  
of mingling in society, and her cousins ingenu-  
ously strove to improve her manners by render-  
ing her familiar with the various arts of politeness  
till the little rustic, as she was at first called be-  
came an object of much flattery and attraction  
throughout the wide circle of her new acquaint-  
ance.

Thus flattered and carressed, her stay at  
Boston, through the agency of her brother, being  
prolonged far beyond her expectations, that she  
might have an opportunity of attending a popu-  
lar school. Julia, though she had by no means  
forgotten the rural scenes of her childhood, be-  
came well nigh intoxicated by her own good  
fortune, the artless drama which she played on  
the moonlight evening before her departure  
from her native home, appeared to her like a  
childish freak; and though upon reflection, she  
would say to herself that her vows to George  
should not be violated, she would half uncon-  
sciously violate them at the same moment by  
her secret feelings. But let us return to the  
secluded farm-house.

Here, although the absence of Julia robbed  
the inmates of much sunshine of enjoyment, af-  
fairs were moving prosperously as ever.—  
George felt much anxiety, and some unpleasant  
forebodings, at the prolonged stay of Julia;  
but employing his leisure mostly with his books,  
hope, though delayed, made not his heart sick,  
and he fancied it would be happiness again to  
meet her, though her affection for him might be  
somewhat estranged, as he occasionally allowed  
himself to fear.

One year had passed since Julia's departure,  
a year eventful to her, and one rendered long  
by expectation to her rural friends, when the  
beloved daughter again returned to the open  
bosom of her early home.

Ere she was released from the tender em-











